

REMARKS

Claims 25 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 26, and 28-31 have been amended without prejudice.

The Office rejected claims 1-8, 21-24 and 26-31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Meador (US 4,605,268). However, the Office also stated that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Applicants have canceled claim 25 and amended its base claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 25. The Applicants respectfully submit that since amended base claim 1 now includes the limitation of claim 25, that amended claim 1 is now allowable. Since claims 2-8 and 21-24 all depend from now allowable base claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also now allowable.

Claim 27 has been canceled and base claim 26 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 27 as well as the limitations of claim 25. The Applicants respectfully submit that since amended base claim 26 now includes the limitation of claim 25, that amended base claim 26 is now allowable. Since claims 28-31 depend from now allowable base claim 26 the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also now allowable. Since 27 has been canceled its rejection is now moot.

The Office also rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meador. The Applicants respectfully submit that since claim 21 depends from now allowable base claim 1, that claim 21 is also now allowable.

In view of the arguments and amendments made herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

It is believed that there are no fees due at this time. However, as stated in the previous response, the commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 180584. If there are any questions concerning the above, please contact Jeffery E. Daly at (281) 878-5658.

Respectfully submitted,

/Tyson J. Wilde/

Electronically signed by Tyson J. Wilde on January 9, 2007

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<u>1-9-07</u>	<u>/Tyson J. Wilde/</u>
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